

The late Rear Admiral Jeremiah A. Denton Jr. was a United States Navy aviator who was shot down during a bombing mission in 1965, and held as prisoner of war in Vietnam for seven years and seven months. Mistreatment of our POWs in violation of the Geneva Convention was first confirmed when Admiral Denton blinked the word T-O-R-T-U-R-E in Morse Code when the North Vietnamese communist captors attempted to use his in an internationally televised propaganda broadcast. When his message was discovered, he endured horrific retaliatory torture that nearly killed him.

Admiral Denton's heroic resistance of torture and refusal to betray his country has been universally praised and recognized globally. He was part of a group of 11 prisoners who endured brutal treatment at the Vietnamese Hoa Lo prison, which came to be known as the infamous "Hanoi Hilton." Admiral Denton was part of the group that developed a system of stealth communication and strict adherence to U.S. military code -- resistance that eventually landed them at an isolated jail known as "Alcatraz." In time they became known as the "Alcatraz 11."

After the war Admiral Denton went on to serve as a United States Senator from Alabama, and he committed his life to humanitarian causes. For example, while he was in the Senate he created the Denton Program which permits the U.S. military to transport privately donated humanitarian aid on a space available basis to destinations worldwide.

Admiral Denton passed away on March 28, 2014. Since then the surviving members of the Alcatraz 11 have initiated a call for a U.S. Navy ship to be named in honor of Admiral Denton, as was done to honor their other leader, Medal of Honor recipient Admiral James B. Stockdale. Last month at their National Convention the American Legion passed a resolution in strong support of such an action.

**- M O R E -**

**MOTION**

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

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**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors send a letter to the Department of Defense, the Secretary of the United States Navy, U.S. Senators Feinstein and Boxer as well as the California Congressional Delegation urging them to take action to name a ship of the United States Navy in honor of the late Rear Admiral Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr.

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MDA:dmr